

Eurodiaconia cordially invites all interested members to a special one day training seminar:

Strengthening our Voice: Motivation & Engagement in Diaconia

Training for faith-based organisations on motivating workers and volunteers to engage in communications and advocacy activities to promote diaconia and social justice

**Tuesday, 24 March 2009
10:00 – 18:00
Brussels, Belgium**

Diaconia is often described as “service for and with people in need”. This includes both providing help where it is needed and advocating for people experiencing need. However, in practice, it can be challenging to engage diaconal workers (paid and volunteer) who provide *direct* service in activities that *indirectly* support diaconal work. This includes activities such as: 1) organizing community educational events to draw attention to the social care work of diaconia or a social problem, 2) arranging press interviews to highlight the role of churches in promoting social inclusion or 3) actively participating in working groups that pressure governments for better anti-poverty policies.

This training seminar, led by **human resources and internal communications trainer Jacques Leloup***, seeks to assist individuals who plan communications and advocacy activities to increase participation by exploring issues such as:

- The role of motivation vs. practical issues such as lack of time, resources or knowledge.
- Central planning (e.g., by national umbrella organisations) vs. local control of activities.
- How our faith base and church traditions may impact the willingness of individuals to engage in activities other than *direct* service to people in need.

Interested Eurodiaconia members are also invited to join the Communications and PR Working Group on **Wednesday, 25 March 2009 from 8:30 – 15:00** as they begin planning for a **2010 European Diaconia Week**. This week will seek to draw attention to the role of diaconia in combating poverty and social exclusion in Europe, as well as help build a Pan-European diaconal identity.

The training is free and open to all Eurodiaconia members. However participants must pay their own travel and lodging expenses. If you would like to attend, but need financial assistance in order to do so, please let us know. To register, please send the attached registration form to janice.thomson@eurodiaconia.org before 13 March 2009.

**Jacques LeLoup is a human resources coach and trainer with a specialty in Process Communications. A Belgian national, he spent 10 years in the USA. Before becoming a trainer, he was a manager in the chemical industry for over 20 years. He is also an elder in the Vineyard Protestant church in Brussels.*



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